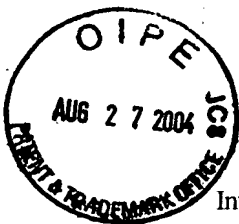


IFW



PATENT  
CASE NAME/No. SP03-131

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor: Balakrishnan, et. al

Serial No: 10/699,446

Filing Date: 10/31/2003

Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR  
DEPOSITING GLASS SOOT

Group Art Unit: 1731

Examiner: TBA

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P. O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Prior to initial examination, please enter the following amendments and Remarks in the above-captioned patent application.

**Amendments to the Specification** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Drawings** begin on page 3 of this paper and include an attached replacement sheet.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 4 of this paper.